

## REMARKS

In the October 26, 2005 Final Office Action, claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 32-34, and 41-43 were rejected to by the Examiner. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's finding that claims 16-18 and 20 contain patentable subject matter. This Amendment and Reply is intended to be completely responsive to the Final Office Action.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 16-18, 20, 32-34, and 41-43 are now pending in this application.

### **1. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1, 32, and 41 is currently being amended.

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 16-18, 20, 32-34, and 41-43 remain pending in the present application.

### **2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

#### **a. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 32, and 34**

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McCaskey ("McCaskey," U.S. Pat. No. 1,314,600).

With this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite a system of expandable tubulars "the corresponding insertion extension being configured to axially inserted into the receiving extension and spreading the narrow outer portion until the expanded region is captured in the wider inner portion...."

McCaskey does not disclose a system of expandable tubulars having, among other elements, an insertion extension being configured to axially inserted into the receiving extension. Rather, McCaskey discloses an extension that may be positioned into a corresponding opening by lateral movement. See Col. 3 ll 4-27. Further, McCaskey does not teach or suggest a system including expandable tubulars. Accordingly, claim 1 and corresponding dependent claims 2, 4, and 7-9, are patentable over the cited reference.

Also with this amendment, claim 32 has been amended to recite a system of tubulars comprising “a first expandable tubular, a second expandable tubular... and a sand barrier disposed along the connector system....” McCaskey does not disclose a system of tubulars having, among other elements, a first expandable tubular and a second expandable tubular. Nor does McCaskey disclose a system including expandable tubulars. Accordingly, claim 32 and corresponding dependent claim 34 are patentable over the cited reference.

Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 32, and 34 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allowance of claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 32, and 34 is respectfully requested.

b. Claims 41-43

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matthews et al. (“Matthews,” U.S. Pat. No. 4,706,659).

Also with this amendment, claim 41 has been amended to recite a system of expandable tubulars comprising “a first expandable tubular, a second expandable tubular... and a slide cover slidably mounted on the first tubular, wherein the slide cover may be slid relative to the first tubular and into engagement with the second tubular to secure the second tubular to the first tubular....” Matthews does not disclose a system of tubulars having, among other elements, a first expandable tubular and a second expandable tubular. Accordingly, claim 41 and corresponding dependent claims 42 and 43 are patentable over the cited reference.

Accordingly, claims 41-43 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allowance of claims 41-43 is respectfully requested.

**3. Conclusion**


Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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